

# **South Carolina Department of Natural Resources**

## **Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area**



**Willie Simmons**  
**Region 3 Wildlife Coordinator**

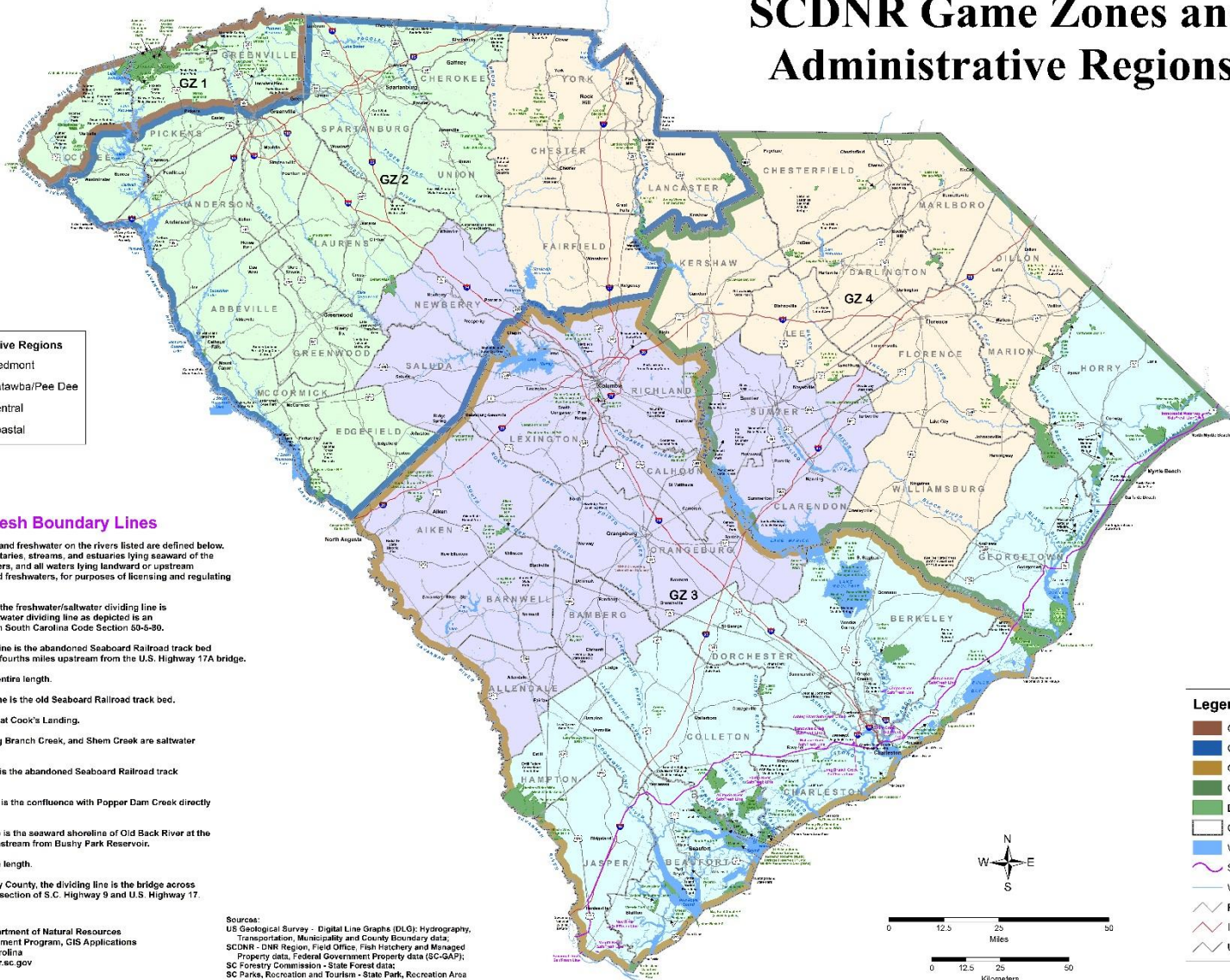


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# SCDNR Game Zones and Administrative Regions



- SCDNR Administrative Regions**
- Region 1 - Piedmont
  - Region 2 - Catawba/Pee Dee
  - Region 3 - Central
  - Region 4 - Coastal

## Approximate Salt/Fresh Boundary Lines

The dividing lines between saltwater and freshwater on the rivers listed are defined below. All waters of the rivers and their tributaries, streams, and estuaries lying seaward of the dividing lines are considered saltwaters, and all waters lying landward or upstream from the dividing lines are considered freshwaters, for purposes of licensing and regulating commercial and recreational fishing.

Except as otherwise provided below, the freshwater/saltwater dividing line is U.S. Highway 17. The Freshwater/Saltwater dividing line as depicted is an approximation of the line described in South Carolina Code Section 59-5-30.

On the Savannah River, the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed located approximately one and three-fourths miles upstream from the U.S. Highway 17A bridge.

The Wright River is salt water for its entire length.

On the Ashepoo River, the dividing line is the old Seaboard Railroad track bed.

On the New River, the dividing line is at Cook's Landing.

Wallace River, Rantowles Creek, Long Branch Creek, and Shem Creek are saltwater for their entire lengths.

On the Edisto River, the dividing line is the abandoned Seaboard Railroad track bed near Matthews Canal Cut.

On the Ashley River, the dividing line is the confluence with Popper Dam Creek directly across from Magnolia Gardens.

On the Cooper River, the dividing line is the seaward shoreline of Old Back River at the confluence with Old Back River downstream from Bushy Park Reservoir.

Wando River is saltwater for its entire length.

On the Intracoastal Waterway in Horry County, the dividing line is the bridge across the Intracoastal Waterway at the intersection of S.C. Highway 9 and U.S. Highway 17.

Sources:  
US Geological Survey - Digital Line Graphs (DLG); Hydrography,  
Transportation, Municipality and County Boundary data;  
SCDNR - DNR Region, Field Office, Fish Hatchery and Managed  
Property data, Federal Government Property data (SC-GAP);  
SC Forestry Commission - State Forest data;  
SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism - State Park, Recreation Area  
and Historic Site data.  
Note: Spatial Data Sources not always current (2010).



South Carolina Department of Natural Resources  
Technology Development Program, GIS Applications  
Columbia, South Carolina  
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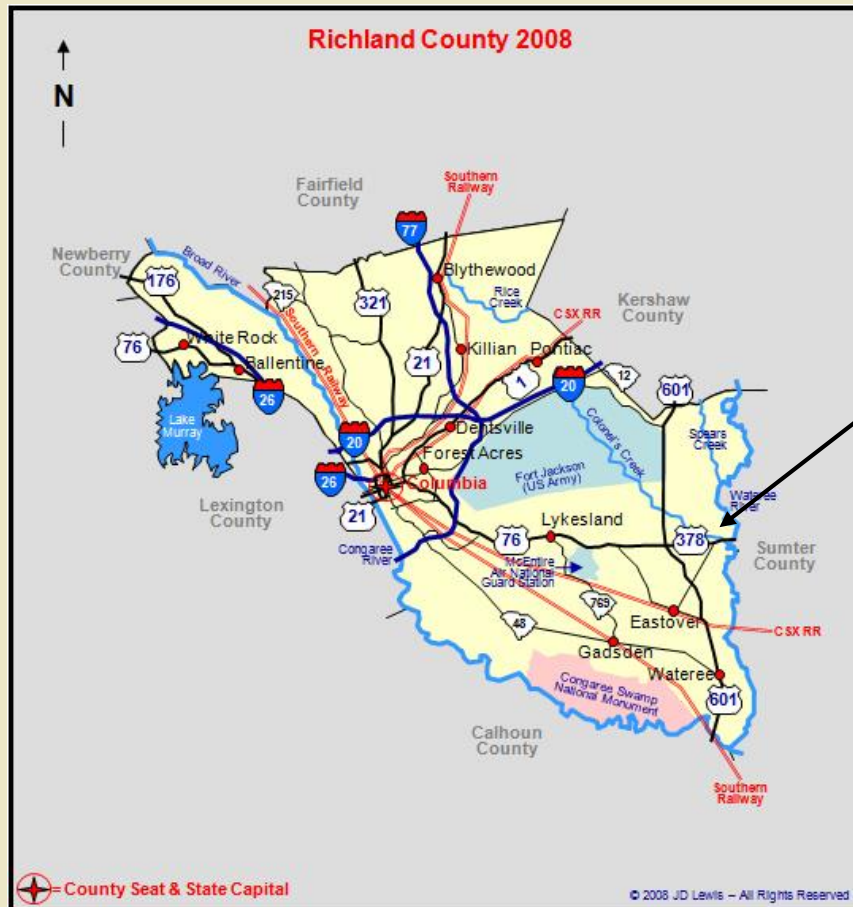
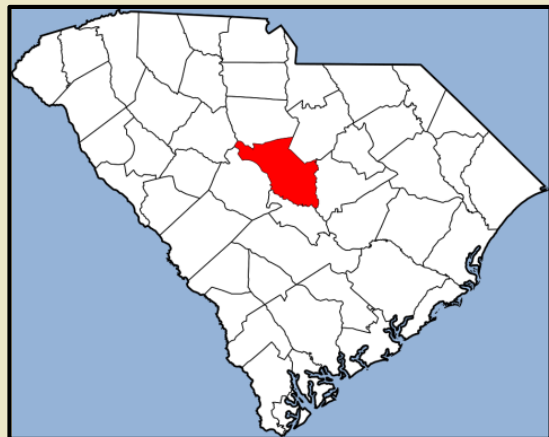
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**Wateree  
River HP  
WMA**

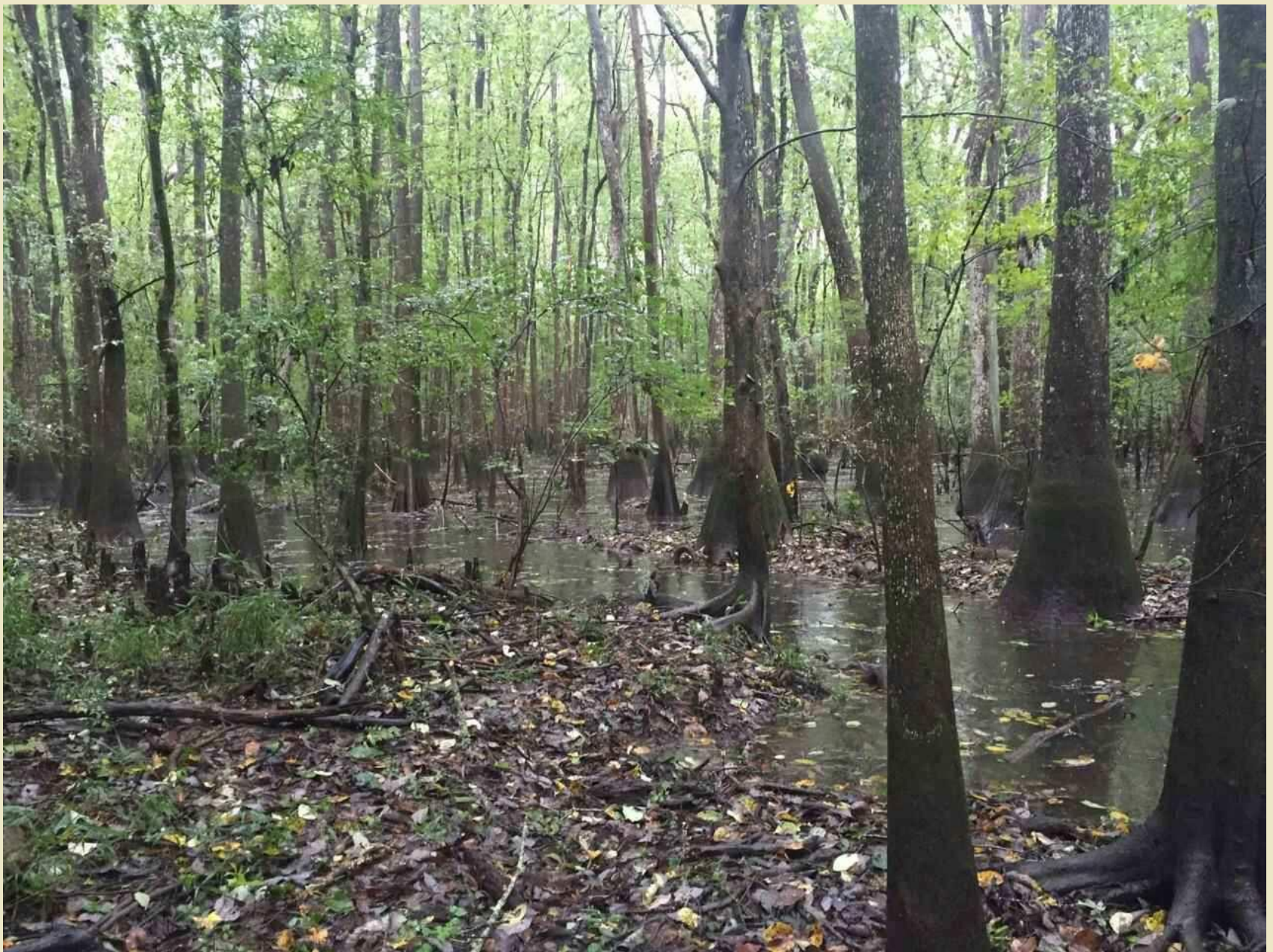


# Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area

- Consists of the former Cook's Mountain Tract and a portion of the Goodwill Tract.
- It was transferred to SCDNR ownership on June 2, 2015.
- The property contains 3,677 acres adjoining the Wateree River.
- It is in Richland County and located 17 miles east of Columbia.







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# Objectives

- Wateree River Heritage Preserve WMA was protected as partial mitigation for the Haile Gold Mine Project in Lancaster County.
- SCDNR must protect the property and complete wetlands protection and enhancement projects as the first objective. This is required by the terms of our ownership of the property.



- The property is dedicated as a SC Heritage Preserve, the highest protection in the state.
- The Heritage Trust Act (51-17-10 et Seq.) defines the primary objective of all Heritage Preserves is to "protect the natural or cultural character of any area or feature" for which the property was dedicated.





- The Heritage Trust Act also requires that Heritage Preserves be managed "to provide the maximum public usage . . . which is compatible and consistent with the character of the area" – (S.C. Code of Laws 51-17-40).
- The purpose of this meeting is to receive public input on the draft management plan for the property.





# Management Plan

- SCDNR has compiled a draft management plan for the property. There are copies available in the back of the room.
- We would like your opinion on the plan and our proposed management of the property.







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# Plan Overview

- The property will be managed to protect wetlands, enhance wetlands, and restore natural ecosystems.
- It will be managed as a natural area.
- Fishing, hunting, hiking, nature observation, and outdoor education will be encouraged.





The area will be open year-round to the public during daylight hours, except during drawn deer, turkey and waterfowl hunts.

13 full days closed to the public for drawn deer hunts.

11 half days of turkey hunts closed to the public from sunrise until 12 noon.

5 half days of waterfowl hunts closed to the public from sunrise until 12 noon.



- All cultural and historic features will be protected.
- No ATVs
- A road network will be maintained to allow limited access to the property.
- All activities will be consistent with the wetlands protection mission of the area.







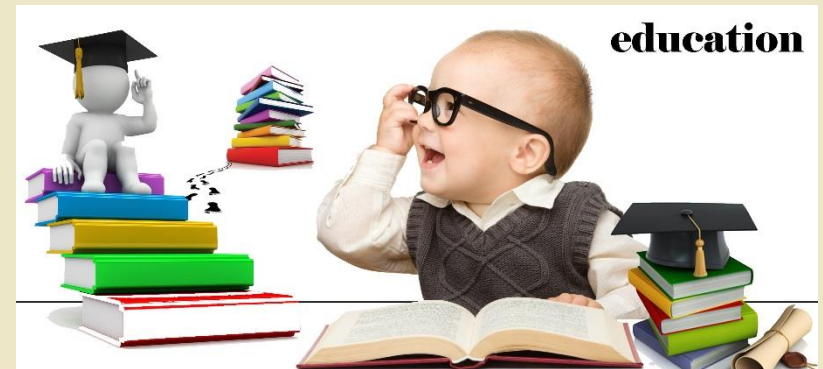
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# Educational Opportunities

- **School Groups**
- **Tours of the natural areas**
- **Tours of cultural and historic areas**
- **Wildlife Education**
- **Land Management Practices**
- **These activities can be set up by prior appointment.**



# Hunting Activities

## •Archery Season

- **22 days of Archery hunting for deer and hogs,**
- **September 15 thru October 10**
- **Joint Use Days for Archery Deer**
- **Hunters and Other users on the property.**
- **We recommend that you wear “Hunter Orange” on these days.**
- **No Sunday Hunting**



# Hunting Activities

## •Drawn Deer Hunts

- **13 days of gun hunting for deer and hogs.**
- **No Sunday hunting.**
- **Participants for draw hunts will be selected by Lottery Hunt Application Process.**
- **These hunt dates are on Monday thru Wednesday.**
- **Oct. 17-19, Oct. 31-Nov.2, Nov. 14-16  
Oct. 26, Nov. 7, Nov. 5, Nov. 21**





# Hunting Activities

- **Turkey and Waterfowl Season**
- **11 half days of turkey hunting**
- **Hunt dates are scheduled on Wednesdays and Saturdays. End of March thru the first week in May. (Wed. 5 days and Sat. 6 days)**
- **5 half days of waterfowl hunts**
- **3 Saturdays and 2 Wednesdays**







**•There are roads and firelines for walking/hiking, bicycling, bird watching, photography and general nature study.**







- **Pond is open to the public. (fishing license required)**
- **Public Fishing Rodeos for children) and Family Fishing Clinics.**







**•Access to the Wateree River by foot  
for Fishing.**



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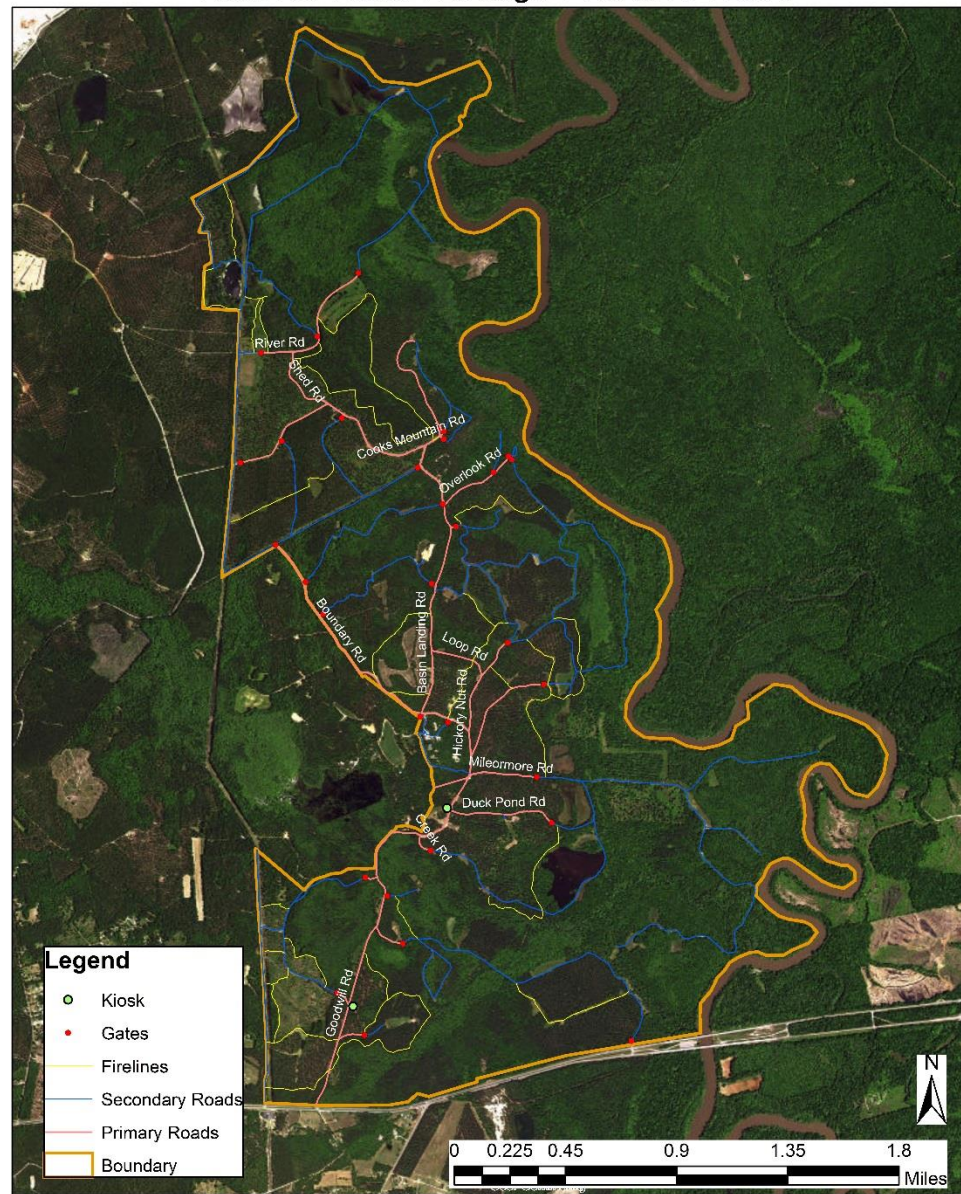
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# Wateree River Heritage Preserve Wildlife Management Area Road System

- 9.5 miles of open Drivable Roads
- Total of 44.1 miles of roads and Firelines

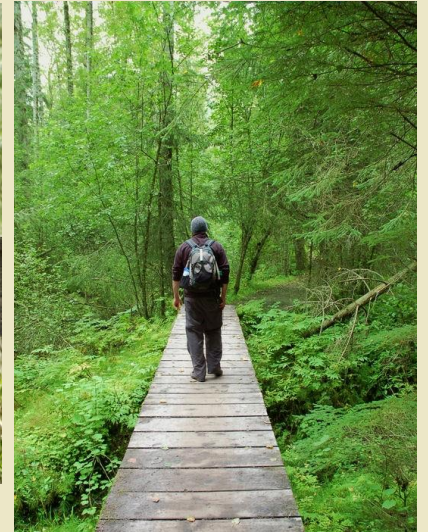
Wateree River Heritage Preserve WMA





## Other User Groups:

- **Bicycling, walking, hiking, bird watching & nature study will be permitted when lottery hunts are not in progress.**



- **13 full days when only hunters are allowed on the property.**
- **16 half days when only hunters are allowed on the property.**





# Hunting/Other Users Groups January and February



- 53 full days of small game hunting  
Joint use allowed during small game hunt
- 9 Sundays with no hunting



# Hunting/Other Users Groups March and April

- 50 Full days for other users groups
- 11 half days for turkey hunting  
Afternoons open to other user groups







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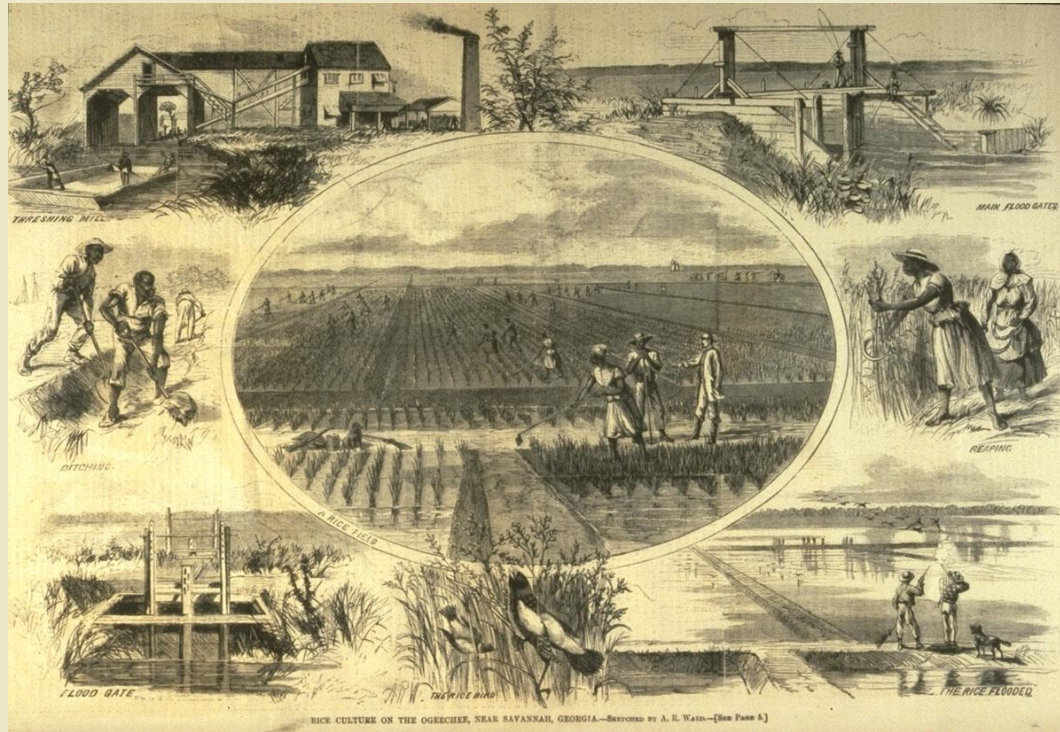


# Daily Visitation and Use Card Data

	<u>January</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hunting	51	111	5	30	4	0	201
Fishing	0	0	6	21	45	28	100
Scouting		8	12	15	4	6	45
Birding	2	1	6	8	4	9	30
Wildlife Viewing	1	11	16	21	34	50	133
Hiking	0	1	2	12	10	15	40
Bicycling	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Photography	0	0	0	7	0	7	14
Other	0	0	46	75	25	80	226
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>193</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>793</b>



# Cultural and Archaeological Resources



- Compiling detailed history of the property
- Detailed Archaeological Work Plan
- Projects and Activities



# For More Information Contact:

***Willie Simmons***

***Region 3 Wildlife Coordinator***

***South Carolina Department of Natural Resources***

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